

Kaihononga Māori | Lower South Island

Tēnā koutou e Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi

Greetings to all.

He mihi mai i tai o Arai te uru ki a koutou katoa.

I greet you from the mountains, rivers and coastline of Arai te uru.

I haere ahau ki te whakanuia a Te Tiriti o Waitangi ki Te Rau Aroha Marae ki Motupōhue (Bluff) ki Te Wai Pounamu.

I attended the Waitangi Commemoration at Te Rau Aroha, Bluff, South Island.

I a tau e toru, ngā hapū e pā ana ki Awarua, ki Akaroa, ki Ōtākou hoki e whakamanuhiri te kaupapa nei ki te mōhiohia ērā wahi ki hea te hainatanga a te tiriti o Waitangi i a Ngāi Tahu ki 1840.

Every third year, the hapū connected to Awarua, Akaroa and Ōtākou host this event to acknowledge the places where Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed by Ngāi Tahu in 1840.

Ahakoā, ka heke iho te ua, e rima rau ngā tangata I tae mai ki te tautoko te kauapa.

Although, it poured down, five hundred people attended to support the event.

Ko ētahi kaihautū i a Paremata, i a te Kawanatanga a-kainga, i a te tauā moana Roera, i a te hāpori me Ngāi Tahu whānui hoki i tautoko.

Various Government ministers, local Government representatives, the Royal New Navy, members of the community and Ngāi Tahu were there in support.

E whakarongo mātou ki ngā kauhau e rua, tuatahi i a Dr Michael Stevens (tribal historian) tuarua i a Justin Tipa (Kaiwhakahaere Ngāi Tahu). He pai te ahua o rāua kōrero.

We listened to several speeches by Dr Michael Stevens and Justin Tipa. They shared some good insights.

Ko te kōtahitanga te tino take o te rā Unity was a key theme of the day.

Kua tino harikoa tētahi rōpū kapa haka, me te hangi hoki. He mihi atu ki ngā kaitunu me te whānau o Awarua ki te manaakitanga ki a mātou, tēnā koutou katoa.

The performance by one of the kapa haka groups, and the hangi were most enjoyable. I acknowledge and thank the cooks, kitchen hands and the whānau of Awarua for the hospitality, thank you very much.

He mahi kai tākata, he mahi kai hoaka *'It is work that consumes people, as greenstone consumes sandstone'* (Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement, Crown Apology).

Toitū te Tiriti o Waitangi



(Photo courtesy of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, 2024).



(Lisa Te Raki | Kaihononga Māori LSI).